

Detailed Action

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's Remarks/Arguments filed on 3/27/2009 regarding claims 7-23 have been considered. Claims 1-6 have been canceled and claims 13-23 have been newly added by applicant. Claims 7-23 are currently pending.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with applicant's representative, Janet Hood, on 4/23/2009.

The application has been amended for claims 7, 9, 18 as follows:

7. (Currently Amended) A method of allocating station addresses to communication users arranged in a bus system, wherein communication on the bus system is organized in communication cycles, and a first communication user on the bus assigned a controlling role as a manager and having a database comprising a list of each possible station of the bus and a current allocation for each station address as either a communication user or a non-occupied station address is configured to:

autonomously transmit data to all station addresses on the bus system, allocate data to a .each station address in the database, the data uniquely identifying a communication user, or characterize the station address as not allocated, the method comprising:

transmitting in a first communication cycle, by a first communication user on the bus, to all station addresses on the bus:

(a) a first broadcast request comprising a list of currently non-occupied station addresses from the database of the first communication user so that all other users on the bus can save the list of currently non-occupied station addresses; and

(b) a first new agent request to all station addresses on the bus requesting a new agent response, wherein:

(i) for each non-responsive station address in which no response is received, the current allocation is updated to non-occupied in the database, and

(ii) for each responsive station address in which a response comprising data uniquely ~~identifying~~ identifying the agent at that station address is received, the current

allocation is updated to a communication user and the data uniquely ~~identifying~~
identifying the agent at that address is recorded in the database;

transmitting in a second communication cycle, by the manager:

(a) a second broadcast request to all station addresses on the bus comprising the list of currently non-occupied station addresses from the database of the first communication user as updated in the first communication cycle so that all other users on the bus can save the list of currently non-occupied station addresses; and

(b) a second new agent request addressed to each responsive station address on the bus comprising

(i) the data uniquely identifying the agent at that station address as recorded in the database as confirmation, thereby assuring the communication user at that station address of correct identification by the manager, and

(ii) the data uniquely identifying the agent at each responsive station address as recorded in the database, thereby allowing communications among communication users by correct identification.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 7, further comprising:
storing device information comprising data uniquely ~~identifying~~ identifying the agent
in a memory device assigned to the communication user;

accessing the stored device information via the bus system by the first communication user; and

reading the stored device information by the first communication user.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of allocating station addresses to communication users arranged in a bus system that requires unique stations addresses for communication users to be able to communicate with one another, wherein communication on the bus system is organized in communication cycles, comprising:

transmitting in a first communication cycle, by a first communication user on the bus assigned a controlling role as a manager and having a database comprising a list of each possible station of the bus and a current allocation for each station address as either a communication user or a non-occupied station address, to all station addresses on the bus:

(a) a first broadcast request comprising a list of currently non-occupied station addresses from the database of the first communication user so that all other users on the bus can save the list of currently non-occupied station addresses; and

(b) a first new agent request to all station addresses on the bus requesting a new agent response, wherein:

(i) for each non-responsive station address in which no response is received, the current allocation is updated to non-occupied in the database, and

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(ii) for each responsive station address in which a response comprising data uniquely ~~identifying~~ identifying the agent at that station address is received, the current allocation is updated to a communication user and the data uniquely ~~identifying~~ identifying the agent at that address is recorded in the database;

transmitting in a second communication cycle, by the manager:

(a) a second broadcast request to all station addresses on the bus comprising the list of currently non-occupied station addresses from the database of the first communication user as updated in the first communication cycle so that all other users on the bus can save the list of currently non-occupied station addresses; and

(b) a second new agent request addressed to each responsive station address on the bus comprising

(i) the data uniquely identifying the agent at that station address as recorded in the database as confirmation, thereby assuring the communication user at that station address of correct identification by the manager, and

(ii) the data uniquely identifying the agent at each responsive station address as recorded in the database, thereby allowing communications among communication users by correct identification.

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present application relates to performing a method of allocating addresses to communication users arranged in a bus system, wherein communication on the bus system is organized in communication cycles, including the unique steps of:

“transmitting in a second communication cycle, by the manager:

(a) a second broadcast request to all station addresses on the bus comprising the list of currently non-occupied station addresses from the database of the first communication user as updated in the first communication cycle so that all other users on the bus can save the list of currently non-occupied station address; and

(b) a second new agent request addressed to each responsive station address on the bus comprising

(i) the data uniquely identifying the agent at that station address as recorded in the database as confirmation, thereby assuring the communication user at that station address of correct identification by the manager, and

(ii) the data uniquely identifying the agent at each responsive station address as recorded in the database, thereby allowing communications among communication users by correct identification.”

The closest prior art, Kolblin et al. (USP 6,216,172), discloses a method of performing automatic controller area network CAN address allocation for each bus subscriber by determining if a bus subscriber receives a telegram claiming an address agrees with its own

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provisional address. However, Kolblin fails to anticipate or render obvious the above quoted limitations of the present application. This renders the claims allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin Mew whose telephone number is 571-272-3141. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chi Pham can be reached on 571-272-3179. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/K. M./
Examiner, Art Unit 2416

/Chi H Pham/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit
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4/24/09